GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5503
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
SECURITY LAPSE
SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether in a major intelligence failure, unidentified millitants managed to place an improvised explosive device outside the North Block recently ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (e): A general alert had been sounded by the intelligence Agencies that militants may try to target Government buildings housing important Ministries/Departments. Following such reports, the security of the Government buildings was entrusted to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) with effect from 8.1.2001. On 10.4.2001, an improvised explosive device placed in the parking area outside Gate No.1, North Block was detected well in time and defused, thereby averting any possible loss of life of damage to property. CISF is conducting an inquiry in the matter. The inquiry report is yet to be received. The said parking lot is a general parking area both for labelled vehicles of Government officials and unlabelled vehicles of visitors visiting North Block. There is no reason to believe that the incident occurred due to the laxity of any official. Following the incident, the security around North Block and other Government buildings has been further tightened.